

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a placer unit for a microarray processing device to transport a workpiece such as a microscope slide before and after processing operations by the microarray processing device. The processing device is slidably  
110 attached to a gantry and has a support carriage and a movable arm. The movable arm is slidably attached to the support carriage. The placer unit includes a main support body, a latching mechanism and a vacuum chuck. The main support body is mounted on the support carriage and allowed to translate up and down. The latching mechanism enables the main support body to couple with the movable arm of the  
115 processing device. The vacuum chuck is used to hold the workpiece for transportation. The present invention also includes a method within a microarray processing machine for transporting a workpiece such as a microscope slide from one workstation to another workstation.